



Docket No.: 449122078500  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Gunther SCHOFFNER

Application No.: 10/517,629

Confirmation No.: 5679

Filed: December 13, 2004

Art Unit: 2831

For: CONNECTING ELEMENT FOR A  
MECHANICALLY AND ELECTRICALLY  
CONDUCTIVE CONNECTION

Examiner: C. N. Nguyen

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the final Office Action dated July 25, 2006, for which a response was due on September 25, 2006. This response is filed within two months of the issuance of the final Office Action and therefore qualifies for expedited review. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.